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In re Application of:) Group Art Unit: 1754
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TANAKA et al.) Examiner: Stuart L. Hendrickson
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Serial No.: 10/608,262)
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Filed: June 30, 2003)

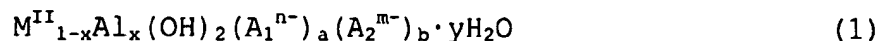
For: DYE FIXING AGENT FOR WATER-COLOR INK, INK JET
RECORDING MEDIUM AND POROUS HYDROTALCITE COMPOUND

Appendix A

Please amend the claims as indicated according to 37 C.F.R.
§ 1.121 concerning a manner for making claim amendments.

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A porous hydrotalcite compound
represented by the following formula (1):



wherein M^{II} is Mg^{2+} or/and Zn^{2+} , A_1^{n-} is a silicic acid ion
($HSi_2O_5^-$) and a sulfuric acid ion (SO_4^{2-}), or a silicic acid ion
($HSi_2O_5^-$), A_2^{m-} is an anion selected from the group consisting of
 CO_3^{2-} , NO_3^- , Cl^- and OH^- , x and y satisfy $0.50 < x \leq 0.80$ and $0 < y$
 < 2 , and a—and

b satisfy $0.50 < n_a + m_b \leq 0.80$, and having a BET specific surface area of 50 to 400 m²/g.

20. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19, wherein A_1^{n-} is a silicic acid ion ($HSi_2O_5^-$) and a sulfuric acid ion (SO_6^{2-}).

21. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19, wherein the silicic acid ion ($HSi_2O_5^-$) and the sulfuric acid ion (A_1^{n-}) accounts for 10 to 98 mol% of the total of all the anions ($A_1^{n-} + A_2^{m-}$).

22. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has a BET specific surface area of 100 to 300 m²/g.

23. (Original) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has a total pore volume (N_2 gas adsorption method) of 0.50 to 2.00 ml/g.

24. (Original) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has an average pore radius (N_2 gas adsorption method) of 4 to 15 nm.

25. (Original) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has an average particle diameter of 0.1 to 10 μm .

Claims 26-40 (Canceled)

41. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has a total pore volume (N_2 gas adsorption method) of 0.70 to 1.60 ml/g.

42. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has an average pore radius (N_2 gas adsorption method) of 7 to 10 nm.

43. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has an average particle diameter of 0.5 to 10 μm .

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44. (Canceled)